

## REMARKS

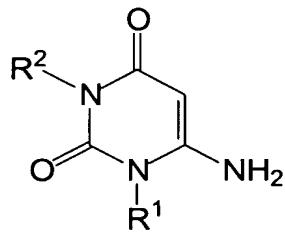
Claims 1 – 15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, e.g., stabilizers Nos. 4a and 5 on page 25 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

## THE REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03/004558. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as presently claimed, relates to a stabilizer system for stabilizing halogen-containing polymers against thermal degradation, comprising

(a) at least one perfluoroalkanesulphonate salt and  
(b) at least one or more indoles and/or ureas and/or alkanolamines and/or aminouracils, wherein the aminouracil can be, *inter alia*, a compound of the structure

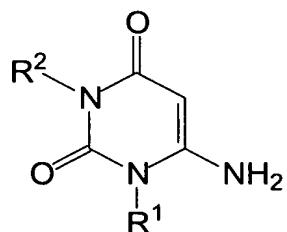


(IVa)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, independently of one another, are H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy- and/or hydroxyl-substituted phenyl, or are phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl which has C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and/or hydroxyl substitution on the phenyl ring, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or are C<sub>3</sub>-

$C_{10}$  alkyl interrupted by at least one oxygen atom, or are  $CH_2-CHOH-R_3$ , wherein  $R_3$  is H,  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl,  $C_2-C_4$  alkenyl,  $C_4-C_8$  cycloalkyl, phenyl,  $C_7-C_{10}$  alkylphenyl or  $C_7-C_{10}$  phenylalkyl, with the proviso that  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are not both hydrogen. Accordingly,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are not alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, or both hydrogen.

WO03/004558, on the other hand, describes a composition comprising fluoroalkanesulfonic acids and, *inter alia*, aminouracils of the formula:

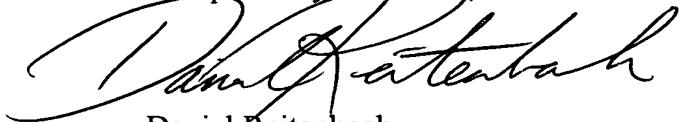


wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , independently of one another, are H, alkyl, or aryl, unsubstituted or substituted by alkyl groups. WO03/004558 does not teach or suggest any other aminouracils. Accordingly, WO03/004558 does not teach or suggest the aminouracils utilized in Applicants' claimed stabilizer composition.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 – 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03/004558, is improper. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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